

# Appendix

## G

no dog



The Croft  
Roe Green  
Sandon  
SG9 OQG

Dear Ms Sweetman,

I would like to object to the granting of a premises licence at Poplars Farm, Roe Green Sandon in the name of Richard Maskell. It was applied for on 21.2.2018.

I have lived on Roe Green for fifteen or sixteen years. There have been many noisy parties at Poplars Farm, but nothing like the noise from the event in September 2017. It was unfair and unreasonable to expect people to put up with it then and this is much truer for this MUCH bigger event. The noise did not stop when the music stopped. The noise from cars and people went on till much later and why is it likely to be any different if this event is allowed to go ahead?

Our roads are far too narrow for the amount of traffic this event would cause and the traffic would be a danger as well as a nuisance.

I do not believe that something like this should be allowed so close to other houses and Sandon village. It is not being held in the middle of the countryside with lots of fields around it, it is right behind our homes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patsy Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Patsy Smith

no due

The Village Green Club  
Sandon SG9 0RQ

N.H.D.C.

19 MAR 2018

16 March 2018

Re Application for Premises licence for  
Lawrie Alderman at Poplars Farm  
in the name of Richard Haskell of  
Baldock dated 21 February 2018

I am very much against the above event  
as it is not a small village gathering,  
<sup>NOT RELEVANT</sup>  
~~but a huge commercial undertaking~~ which  
is not sustainable on the grounds of  
public nuisance, crime and disorder,  
protection, particularly of children from  
intimidation and harm and public safety.

~~Sandon is a small fairly isolated  
village already under threat by a  
major development at The Beery. There~~  
NOT RELEVANT.

are no shops or pubs or other amenities,  
so nothing else for festival goers to  
do than make a nuisance of themselves.  
Poplars Farm is on a green surrounded  
by residential properties, football and  
cricket pitches and a small children's  
playground. The noise is going to be  
horrendous - not only around the Farm but  
in outlying areas too, which are also  
going to be affected by traffic and  
litter.

I trust you will not put us enough  
in this by granting the licence.

Yours sincerely

B Dowler

MRS B DOWLER

Jubilee House

Rushden Road

Sandon

SG9 0QS

Dear Hannah,

I wish to object to the licence application for the music festival, Sandon Fields at Poplars' Farm Sandon.

I feel it is far too big an event to be held in the middle of a residential area in a small, relatively remote rural village like Sandon.

There is no public transport to the village so the vast majority of attendees will have little or no option but to arrive by private transport and most will arrive by car. The local roads are narrow, windy and unlit. ~~Because of run-off from the surrounding farmland they are subject to frequent potholes and erosion. The roads are often muddy due to farm tractors travelling down the roads from field to fields and after heavy rainfall the roads become flooded in places.~~ Locals are used to the roads and know where the passing places are but visitors to the area often travel too fast for the road conditions and ignore passing places forcing traffic travelling in the other direction to brake suddenly and pull onto rough ground at the side of the road. Most music festivals suffer from a constant stream of traffic to and from the venue around the opening and closing times and I feel that this event, which could have some 1400 vehicles arriving, will also have a continuous stream of traffic going in one direction through the village, possibly driving too fast, making it impossible for traffic to go in the other direction and creating a danger to walkers, cyclists and horse riders who all use the road, particularly at weekends as there are no footpaths or cycle tracks along most of the roads. Preventing parking along Rushden Road for the duration of the event will compound the problem as a number of residents on Rushden road do not have parking space on their land and so normally park their and any visitors' cars on the road outside their properties. They will be forced to move their cars to other roads and endangering public safety further on these even narrower roads.

NOT RELEVANT

Up to 5000 people attending the event will swamp village residents by 10 to 1 as there are only about 500 residents in the village. It is inevitable that with such a large number of people in such a small area there will be an increase in crime and disorder especially if alcohol and possibly drugs are involved over a long period of time. I wasn't reassured to hear at the consultation meeting that all the event organisers would do is to eject disorderly individuals from the event itself with no consideration as to what might happen once the individual left the venue. Sandon is some way from the nearest police station so considerable damage could be done to

either property or residents before the police could arrive to deal with the matter. Allowing up to 1500 people to camp in an area with no facilities will compound the problem. Especially as they will not have any food or beverages provided on site between 2.00 a.m. and 12.00 noon on Sunday. At least some of the campers are bound to leave the site in search of food and drink.

In terms of public nuisance, noise does travel considerable distances in the countryside. We do hear noise from parties held in Roe Green, mainly the bass elements, and often wondered where the noise was coming from at first. We were away for most of the day when last year's event was on but even so when we arrived home in the late evening we could here noise from the event and observed speeding cars, which were coming from the direction of the venue, driving through the centre of the village. Sandon village is very quiet, particularly after 11.00 p.m. when most houses are in darkness. Those that are not in darkness are quiet. Garage and bass music unit 1.30 a.m. would be extremely intrusive as would a large amount of traffic on the roads in the early hours of the morning.

Although my own daughter is now a young adult I am concerned that the venue is so close to a children's play area and an area where older children tend to congregate as apart from the risk of them picking up discarded alcohol or drugs in the vicinity of the venue they could also be exposed to inappropriate adult behaviour and possibly be vulnerable to inappropriate adult attention, particularly if the adults are under the influence of drink or drugs.

Can I end by saying that, despite approaching 60, I am not opposed to music festivals as such. My 24 year old daughter has attended a number of them in recent years and as a student was an Oxfam steward at Reading, Bestival and Boardmasters so I am well aware that not all young people who attend music festivals take drugs and cause trouble but equally most do drink alcohol sometimes to excess and incidents do happen. I just think that Poplars Farm is a totally unsuitable venue for a music festival.

Regards

Derek Pollard

## Hannah Sweetman

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**From:** Licensing  
**Sent:** 12 March 2018 14:53  
**To:** Hannah Sweetman  
**Subject:** FW: Sandon Premises licence application - OBJECTION  
**Attachments:** Sandon Fields Notification.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**From:** Sandra Waddington  
**Sent:** 06 March 2018 13:28  
**To:** Licensing  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Fw: Sandon Premises licence application - OBJECTION

Dear Sir / Madam

~~We have been informed that the applicant for Sandon Fields Festival, which was rejected by NHDC on all 4 licencing objectives in early February, has re-submitted the application.~~ NOT RELEVANT

~~The email that the applicant sent to us (see below) states that the majority of Sandon residents are in favour of this - and that the proceeds will be given to the school to tarmac the playground. Well I personally think this statement is untrue and that using the school benefiting from it can be interpreted as a bribe.~~

I would like to re-iterate my **OBJECTION** to this licence - although it seems that regardless of the rejection by NHDC, the organisers are planning to go ahead with it anyway.

Sandon is a peaceful, rural village and it is very difficult to get a taxi to come to the village during the day let alone at night time. The venue is surrounded by residential properties - NOT the place for this kind of event.

Serving alcohol until early hours in the morning encourages visitors to come by car and drive home - as there are no accommodation options in the village.

Revellers who do manage to come by pre-organised coach will be highly intoxicated by this time and will be noisy on leaving the village. Anti-social behaviour in the village is a great concern to everyone. All lanes in and out of Sandon are dangerous to navigate at the best of times.

A campsite for over 2000 people is proposed - but the mess and noise from this will be intolerable. There will be disruption for several days before and after the event - what will all these campers do on the Sunday before the festival starts again? There are no facilities, shops, cafes in the village so they will be roaming around the village - so Mr Aldermans comments that "I really don't think one night per annum and a Sunday afternoon should really ruin everyones lives" is highly misleading.

~~This would be setting a precedent for future ventures by all and sundry! This application is NOT for a village family event - but for a music festival that will grow year on year if this application is granted.~~

From: Sandra Waddington

NOT RELEVANT

Sent: 15 March 2018 09:42  
To: Hannah Sweetman  
Subject: Re: Sandon fields premises licence application

Dear Hannah

Regarding the above application we STRONGLY OBJECT - the location is totally unsuitable.

Sandon is a rural village and the venue is surrounded by residential properties. All lanes in and out of Sandon are dangerous to navigate at the best of times.

Serving alcohol until early hours in the morning encourages visitors to come by car and drive home - as there are no accommodation options in the village. It is very difficult to get a taxi to come to the village during the day let alone at night time.

Revellers who do manage to come by pre-organised coach will be highly intoxicated by this time and will be noisy on leaving the village. Anti-social behaviour in the village is a great concern to everyone.

The proposal of a campsite for over over 2000 people is preposterous. What are these people going to do with their time on the following day before the festival starts again?

NOT RELEVANT.

THIS IS NOT A FAMILY EVENT FOR LOCALS - IT IS A MONEY-MAKING FESTIVAL PROPOSAL. We suggest the organisers find a more suitable location if they want to hold events such as this.

This would be setting a precedent for future ventures by all and sundry!

NOT RELEVANT.

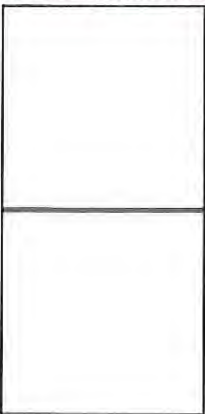
Regards

Yours faithfully  
Mr S Wilson  
Green End Farm  
Sandon

FW: Sandon Fields Festival Meeting Sandon Village Hall - Monday 5th March at 7.15pm

L.A.

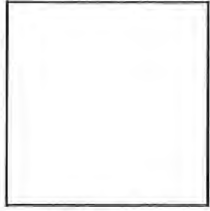
Lawrie Alderman



Reply |  
Fri 02/03, 18:50



Email to Residents from  
Laurie Alderman.



Download

Save to OneDrive - Personal

Dear Villagers and Music Lovers

As you may have heard, the first License Application was turned down for this years Sandon Fields Festival, at a hearing at North Herts Council - a couple of weeks ago.

The organisers have since however, been overwhelmed by the majority who live in Sandon and surrounding villages, that would very much like the Festival to happen again this year on June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. So far, they have had nearly 3 times as many people - who all live in the vicinity - give their support as opposed to object to the event happening.

The organisers therefore feel they owe it to those that would like an alternative event, to currently those on offer in the village.

From my own standpoint, I really don't think one night per annum and a Sunday afternoon should really ruin everyones lives – in fact quite the opposite should be true!

The organisers are hosting a **Public Meeting in the Village Hall** for all to air their views at **7.15pm on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March** and make suggestions to help the event run smoother for all concerned.

I purposely took a back seat on this last time, which perhaps was a mistake in hindsight.

I have lived on Roe Green for nearly 27 years now and was the Founder of another event 20 years ago on Roe Green that raised enough money for a new Classroom at the School.

The event was called "Rock on Roe Green" (I was a school Governor at the time)

We will be doing something along the same lines to support Sandon School at this event and plan to make a sizeable contribution towards resurfacing the playground with tarmac.

We would be most grateful to get all the village's support for this event this time and to that end I would like the opportunity to see everyone at the meeting on the 5th.

It is important that everyone who supports, or has certain reservations about the event, comes along to the meeting.

The next Festival was planned last year for June 2018 as some band bookings had to be made well in advance. Consequently, for timing reasons, the organisers have had to go ahead with another application without the chance to meet with Sandon Villagers, as we don't want to start selling tickets without a License - However the Event Management Plan can be amended up to 28 days before the event, so if any issues were raised at our meeting, these could be put in place, even after a successful application. The organisers have taken on many of the issues raised from individual objections at the hearing, and made some serious concessions to, the numbers of people attending, finishing times and adjusted positions of the camping site to alleviate any disturbance or nuisance. The Saturday event is planned to have a number of hit DJ's and Bands for the younger at heart element with the main stage shutting down at 11pm. Sunday we plan for some "family nostalgia" on (hopefully!) a Sunny Sunday afternoon with the Kinks! (At least 3 original members playing)

Finally, on a personal level – It was never my intention to cause discord in the village – quite the reverse. All those that attended last year had a thoroughly fun time and many neighbors did not even

hear the music or witness any Issues. It is my intention to oversee a well-run, trouble free and neighborly event for everyone in Sandon to feel justly proud of and especially for those who live on Roe Green. You never know, it could well raise demand for people to come and live here!

We would like to talk to everyone personally and present the Event Management Plan with Richard at the meeting and particularly to show how traffic is being managed away from the village. We will make sure refreshments are provided.

Whether a Supporter who enjoyed last years event or neighbour's who have Concerns – **Please Come!** This is everyone's opportunity to air their views!

Best Wishes

Lawrence Alderman  
Poplars Farm

On behalf of the Organisers of Sandon Fields Festival

PS Please could you re-distribute this email to anyone else you may know in Sandon and surrounding villages as we want to reach as many people as possible.  
Many thanks

PPS If anyone would like to help on Monday with Teas and Coffee's please let me know!

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**From:** Hannah Sweetman <[Hannah.Sweetman@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:Hannah.Sweetman@north-herts.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** 11 January 2018 11:55  
**Subject:** Sandon Premises licence application

Good Morning,

I am writing to confirm that I have received your objection for the above application and a date for the hearing for the Premises licence application for Poplars farm has now been confirmed.

The hearing will take place at 7.00pm on Thursday, 1 February 2018 in Brotherhood Hall, Gernon Road, Letchworth GC.

This information will be included in the hearing paperwork pack that you will be sent along with an official invite, but as the date has been confirmed I thought it would be best to let you know as soon as possible to get the date in your diary.

If there are any changes I will inform you and you will received the paperwork report approximately 10 working days before the hearing will take places.

If you have any questions at all please feel free to contact.

Many thanks.

Regards,  
Hannah Sweetman  
Licensing Officer

Direct Dial: 01462 474231  
Mobile: 07771 390495  
North Hertfordshire District Council  
Council Offices, Gernon Road  
Letchworth Garden City  
Hertfordshire  
SG6 3JF

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## Hannah Sweetman

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**From:** Elizabeth Latta  
**Sent:** 19 March 2018 23:15  
**To:** Hannah Sweetman  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Sandon Fields Premises Licence Application

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Ms. Sweetman,

I am writing to object to the granting of a Premises Licence to the above applicant for the following reasons.

Last September when a Music Festival was held at Poplars Farm, Row Green, Sandon, the noise levels were so loud that I was unable to converse with my neighbour whom I met at the top of Beckfield Lane, Green End, Sandon, which is approximately one mile away from the Music Festival venue, the noise level was so loud that I thought somebody had left a radio on at full volume by the hedge that I was standing near, we had to discontinue our conversation.

When I arrived home (at Green End Sandon) my husband said that he could hear music inside our home when all doors and double glazed windows were closed.

Because of the closeness of residential property to Poplars Farm Music Festival venue, I feel that to grant a licence would be extremely detrimental to the local residence because it would be impossible not to cause a public nuisance due to the noise levels, and the huge increase in traffic and people at unsociable hours which I feel would contribute to a public safety issue.

I do hope you will consider my objections.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Latta (Mrs)

Willowdene,  
Green End,  
Sandon,  
Buntingford,  
Herts. SG9 0RQ

**For the attention of:**  
Licensing Department  
Hannah Sweetman,  
Licensing Officer,  
North Hertfordshire District Council,  
Council Offices, Gernon Road,  
Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire SG6 3JF

Dated: 20 March 2018

**Objection**

**With regards to an application for a Premises Licence at Poplars Farm, Roe Green, Sandon, SG90QG by Richard Maskell, and Mr L Alderman acting as the DSP, this objection has been made with all the information being correct to the best of my knowledge at the time of writing and without prejudice. (13 pages)**

**Application for a Premises Licence dated 21 February 2018 at the following address:**

Poplars Farm  
Roe Green  
Sandon  
SG90QG

**From:**

**Ian Dell**  
Clare Cottage  
Roe Green  
Sandon  
SG90QG

**This Objection is based on the following:**

1. The proposed application and supporting documentation as it has been provided
2. The application from a perspective on the following 4 key areas:
  - Crime and Disorder (CD)
  - Public Nuisance (PN)
  - Public Safety (PS)
  - And Protection of Children (PC)

**Summary**

1. The locality of the Poplars Farm for an event of this kind, whether it is for 500 people or the 2999 that has been applied for cannot satisfy all 4 conditions that need to be met for a Premises Licence to be granted.
2. The proposed Highways/Traffic Plan connected with the application has many omissions and anomalies as discussed in detail in the body of this representation. It does not provide sufficient evidence that Noise and Disturbance and Public safety will be satisfied. E.g the lanes around Sandon village do not have footpaths for pedestrians and leisure users, horse riders, cyclists and runners will be at high risk by the increased volume of traffic that will be attracted to Poplars farm.
3. The Public rights of Way across the event location cannot be closed. The monitoring of pedestrian traffic using these byways will require to be monitored at all times of the day. The Icknield path is used by groups such as the Venture Scouts and Duke of Edinburgh award scheme for day time and night time walking activities. Considering there are 2 primary entrance/exits and a further 2 secondary routes and

that these walkers will have the right to stop whenever and wherever they choose, the marshalling will prove difficult. These walkers will have to be accounted for as part of the licence number that was granted. As they are in the licenced area their safety will be as important as paid up attendee. Additionally these walkers will not be under the Stop and Search conditions of the event, they have a public right to be where they are. ANYBODY with ANYTHING could enter the event location. A low risk but a risk that cannot be mitigated against. **Public Safety**. These routes would also introduce the risk of children being taken away from the event by unknown 3<sup>rd</sup> parties. The proposed location of the Fair and Kids Zone is alongside a primary Public Right of Way.

#### **Child Safety**

4. The proposed Event Management Plan (EMP) has many inaccuracies, false/untrue statements, and has omitted details to ensure that the 4 key conditions to have a Premises Licence granted are satisfied. (e.g. The 2017 event was **not well received** by a significant portion of the local residents. It is an invention in the EMP to say it was. The number of objections received on the previous application clearly shows the unrest of local residents, the number of objections received for this application amplifies the concerns of local residents across all the villages in the locality).

5. A Premises licence application has already been **refused by NHDC** on 1st February. Although this application has to be taken on merit it has not altered dramatically, where the inclusion of the Security Plan and the site plan with only one vehicle entrance/ exit to the event location has in fact reduced its ability to satisfy the 4 key objectives. **Public Safety**.

NHDC refused the previous application the grounds that "Due to the remoteness of the village, and the inadequate traffic infrastructure accessing it, the Sub-Committee had grave concerns that the anticipated high volume of traffic which would be caused by the event, would mean that the licensing objective of promotion of public safety would be put at significant risk."

6. An application to run this event using 3 x Temporary Entertainment Notices (TEN's) 6/12/17 was turned down in December 2017 by the Herts Police Force, primarily one the fact movement of people numbers could not be monitored. Once again this application has to be taken on merit however the EMP does not state where exactly where people counts will start nor finish, but it does state that attendees will be subject to body and bag searches implying that people in vehicles when entering the event location will not. This would allow for more than the permitted numbers to be on the event location, and only crowd numbers be accounted for when they enter Zone 3, the music area. This was in fact the case for the 2017 event.

7. I am informed that the owners of the field proposed to be used as an emergency route have not granted permission for vehicle traffic access, the Sales family of Sandon. The Emergency route is in fact using a Public Rights of Way, which will be unlit, unmarked and using a "kissing gate" that only allows 1 person at a time.

8. The EMP states more than once that the 2017 was a pilot festival, and subsequently was ran successfully. Photograph 6 (Appendix) taken from Social media, shows overhead electrical wiring in the main event zone. It is clear this is been placed there using "gaffer" tape. The event was run during wet weather conditions. The safety of the public was at risk. The 2017 event wasn't advertised as a "trial" and didn't go ahead without incident. E.g On social media, an electrical fault during the event caused an act to be cancelled. Was this incident logged? Is this incident log book of 2017 available for review, or ever reviewed by appropriate authorities/organisers?

It should be noted that complaints were lodged with NHDC of trespass and Public Nuisance caused by incidents at the 2017. **Crime and Disorder, Public Nuisance and Public Safety**

9. Some 5 months after the 2017 event the arena area had still not been properly cleared. A number of 20 litre cans of Cooking vegetable oil leaking (and/or leaked) were in the vicinity of the lagoon/lake. I have been informed that it was only after a third party contacted the Environmental Agency these were cleared.

10. Appendix 3 of the Noise Sound Management plan clearly shows the Security Control Centre and Staff Welfare location outside of the proposed security fencing for guests inside Zone 3 . This safety fencing is

NOT RELEVANT

to ensure guests do not have any incidents with the lagoon. The organisers clearly have no regard for their own personnel by placing them in a hazardous area. **Public Safety**

11. I have been informed that some children at the 2017 event did not have Identity Wrist bands. Although this application is taken on merit, past experiences of a "pilot" event should be considered. **Child Protection and Safety**

### Background

~~Please Note 1. No attempt has been made by Richard Maskell to contact any of the local properties that are seriously impacted by this event in a personal capacity.~~ NOT RELEVANT

A face to face meeting with only 4 people present, (RM + Ian Dell, Dawn Dell and Debbie Williamson), was held with Richard Maskell prior to the hearing of the last application. Areas of concern were discussed along with the issues that required amending to satisfy the local vicinity, properties and residents. The Event Management Plan (EMP) presented for this application has only taken 1 of these into consideration.

1. The swapping of Zone 3 (Fair and Kids Zone) with the family overflow camping area. This alteration has managed to do is swap the concerns of a neighbouring property with ourselves with regards to the overnight issues of Camping vs Fair ground. The event will still cause issues that do not meet the 4 main conditions of a Premises Licence being granted.

**Please Note 2.** An attempt to arrange a meeting was made by Mr Alderman. This was declined politely due to the following.

1. Previous communications over the years with Mr Alderman have been met with a series of promises, although few that were ever delivered.
2. A public meeting was arranged by the organisers at Sandon Village Hall, 12 March. This was open to the public and termed as a consultation meeting. The EMP had not been made public (a fact substantiated by NHDC) at the time of the meeting therefore whatever was stated at that meeting could not have been held as fact.
3. It was a general consensus, not only mine, that the views of the objectors would not be considered as the meeting was being managed by the "applicants". Feedback from the meeting that I believe has been reported to NHDC confirmed my belief.
4. Feedback from the meeting and that held by the Sandon Parish Council on 14 March has shown that untruths have been stated with regards to the proposed event. E.g Traffic management and the types of music that will be played.

~~No further attempt has been made by the applicant nor the DSP since the EMP was published to make contact with regards to the application.~~ NOT RELEVANT

**Please Note 3.**

- Clare Cottage has over 300 metres of common boundaries with the proposed location. Similarly The Thatched cottage, and to a lesser extent The Cuckoo
- All of these properties including Pollyanna Cottage are in close proximity to the proposed entrance / exit of all the vehicle traffic including emergency services. All of the residents and properties will be severely affected by Noise and Disturbance of movement by pedestrians and vehicles
- Clare Cottage's stable yard is only 20 metres away from the proposed "Artists Green room".
- Clare Cottage and neighbouring properties are only 50 meters away from this facility.

This holding area will have a high volume of people in the vicinity. The noise from the barn during the 2017 event was at times as loud as that created by the musicians, with every word audible!

The 2017 event held an "after hours party". A Social media advert, posted by Mr Alderman's daughter stated "Come to the after hour's party, tickets are going fast" (see Photograph 5). A Social Media video had been made available on Youtube/Facebook and shared to the Sandon Fields Website, this has now been removed but the link information if required is still available. This event was a fire risk for all those involved. The 2017 event had a close down time of 23:00 hours sharp. It would seem "after hour parties" are a common theme. I believe other objectors to this application has made complaints to the appropriate services about them being held at the Moon and Stars, Rushden, the Public House owned by the DSP.

**Please Note 4.**

At the event held in 2017 we had a text from Mr Alderman promising and confirming that security fencing would be placed on the boundaries between our properties, especially in the proximity of the stable yard that is just 30 metres away from one of the main facilities.

This fencing never materialised. Photographic evidence is available on request

After the event, having complained to Mr Alderman, I received a follow up text from Mr Alderman ....“I apologise for this....I didn't think it posed a security risk”. I will detail the problems and incidents that occurred later, in this objection, but we had to evict drunk trespassers from our stable yard, this is confirmed in a 3<sup>rd</sup> party objection and that the incident was reported to NHDC. Mr Alderman acknowledged in writing that this incident occurred. Objection to the application on **Public Nuisance, and Crime and Disorder**

NOT RELEVANT

~~The Hertfordshire and Middlesex Wildlife Trust has taken an avid interest in the sake of the Environmental issues into the events impact on the Biodiversity of the local wildlife, especially those that are covered under the endangered species acts.~~

~~NHDC have a legal duty under NERC 2006 and their duty to have regard to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 when making decisions that may affect European Protected Species.~~

**Please Note 7.** The application proposes to have the Fair and Kids Zone next to our grazing, albeit with a small buffer strip of land. i.e event attendees will probably attempt to get to the horses. We were informed our neighbours had an incident of this at the 2017 event that was reported to NHDC.

However, the organisers have stated that the EMP is a work in progress. If approved the application has a risk of being amended so that that the camping for the proposed 2-3000k overnight people may be put in this vicinity, alongside our grazing. Campers will have an 8 hour window of no activity at the location. The likelihood of “roaming” is high. The Public Rights of Way will allow free movement in and out of the event location thus creating a high risk of, **Crime and Disorder, Public Safety, Public Nuisance and Child Protection for all the locality.** A supporter of the event even suggested opening the village hall as a breakfast bar, thus attracting potentially 1-2000 campers through the village on the Sunday morning!

**1. The Proposed Application and EMP and supporting documents**

**1.1 The time of the event. (CD, PN, PS, PC)**

The application notice has requested Saturday 12:00 to 2:00 (Sunday morning) and Sunday 12:00 to 18:00, with licenced facilities during these times. A statement has been made that music will be confined to marquee areas after 23:00. The bar areas will still attract customers therefore causing as much noise as the proposed dampened music noise. Albeit thinly lined “open” marquees will not have much effect on the reduction of the sound caused by the proposed DJ “garage” type of music as advertised

A possibly 1000 people camping, and bedding down after 2:30 in the morning will not be quiet! **Public Nuisance**

The control of people across a 20 acre site late at night, especially with children in the vicinity would be very hard to monitor no matter however many CCTV cameras were in place. The CCTV camera positions have not been supplied to date. **Child Protection**

**1.3 The planned area of the event. (PS, CD, PN, PC)**

There is no mention within the application of how the Public Rights of Way across the event location will be dealt with. The Public Rights of Way will allow for free access into the event location and movement across and around the local vicinity

1.3.1 One of the most used and well known Public Rights of Way in the UK (The Icknield Way) goes directly through 2 of the fields proposed to be used. There is no application to close this right of way, but any application would need serious consideration as the alternative route would mean walkers having



to use a narrow and dangerous lane putting public safety at risk particularly with the increased volume of traffic.

NB: Last year the event organisers closed this Right Of Way without any prior application to the NHDC by the use of tie wraps.

Objection:

The application shows a change to the wayleaves of the Public Rights of Way through Zones 2 and 4. Public Rights of Ways cannot be re directed, even temporarily without permission. Any change breaks the Countryside rights of way conventions where any changes must be applied for through the formal processes.

There is no mention on the safety of the Public using these rights of way. Parking within Zone 4 is proposed. Vehicle movement will be transgressing the Rights of Way and potentially parked. **Public Nuisance and Public Safety.**

Highway authorities have a general duty "to assert and protect the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment" of paths in their area.

1.3.3 The proposal states no children will be allowed to leave unaccompanied. There are many access points around the perimeter of Poplars farm through hedgerow etc, not just the planned exit/entrance routes that are planned.

#### **1.6. Traffic management Plan & Highway access (PS, PN, CD, PC)**

Considering that Sandon fields is being marketed as a Local Family Event, the Traffic Management plan concentrates on in coming traffic, not local. From the direction of the M1; north and south of the A1; and the A10, with aim to re direct traffic along the A505 via a diversion to Royston and back down the opposite carriageway which will ultimately send "all" traffic up a narrow road via "The Gannock" side of Sandon.

A majority of road users now use GPS devices and/or Google mobile maps when visiting a new location. Any signs advising of directions will be ignored by a number of vehicles, and take the most direct route. Sending all the traffic down C7, this route has major **Public Safety** issues as it is narrow for a high percentage of its length without a footpath. It is used on a regular basis especially at weekends, by horse riders, pedestrians, runners and by cyclists.

It is unlit and the high volume of night traffic after the event closes will be unsafe and any pedestrians will be at risk or in danger. This volume of traffic will also cause a **Noise and Disturbance** throughout the village where the normal ambience is low. Environmental issues will be a concern with the higher volume of traffic, car exhausts, litter etc. **Noise and Disturbance**

The route diversion sends "all" traffic directly through the centre of the village of Sandon. The village does not have footpaths for long sections of the proposed route. Pedestrians, cyclists, runners and horse riders will be at risk, **Public Safety**, caused even more so by the proposal to place (unauthorised) "No Waiting" bollards on both sides of the road, making the small road width even smaller! **Public Safety and Child protection** will be the result, especially the latter as children use these roads by foot at weekends to visit the children's playground that is located on Roe Green near the proposed event entrance/exit. Pedestrians and road users visiting the business of Sales of Sandon, which is located on the Roe Green side of the village, 300 metres from the event entrances will be at risk, from the heavy influx of traffic, especially with this business being located on a blind bend. **Public Safety**

There has been no provision for the control or diversion of the "local" family event traffic. All locals from Royston, Buntingford, Wallington, Baldock who are familiar with the area and the "lanes" will travel directly to the event location and either ignore the traffic management plan or not be impacted by it as they no signage will be cater for them.

A proposed direction sign #48 is only 2.5 miles away from the event location. However, the proposed diversion route is 20 miles in length! Few, if any will follow the proposed diversion route, especially those familiar with the locality. This traffic will use lanes that are narrow. Any other road user will be at risk.

The volume of event traffic, along with the volume of non-event traffic will approach the event location main entrance from 3 different directions to a T junction immediately outside the proposed entrance and exit of the event. The control of this traffic will prove difficult and cause tail-backs. Not 1 but 3 Stop/Go boards will be required. It will cause a **Public Disturbance** not only to event traffic but more so to local non-event traffic. Any business movements along these roads/lanes will be difficult, e.g Post, milk, oil deliveries, food deliveries. **Public Nuisance** to those attempting to go about their normal day to day business.

There is only ONE proposed Entrance and Exit to Poplars Farm. It does not have the capability to have any more, and has a Children's Playground only 5 metres away.

This playground is not only a **Public Safety issue**, but a consideration for the **Safety of Child Protection**. This children's area has no barriers between it and the surrounding roads.

This children's area has always been a meeting point and congregation of "visitors" to Poplars Farm. At last year's pilot event.

The traffic Management plan is **A Child Protection issue from a Safety point of view**, as well as a **Noise and Disturbance** for local residents and possible **Crime and Disorder** in the vicinity when the event closes and attendees disperse on Saturday/Sunday evening and Sunday afternoon.

The Traffic Management plan (TMP) makes statements about using TTRO's to close the right turn from the A505. The Services and local authority processes state that they require a minimum of 3 months to approve such Orders and these should be advertised and published. I have been informed that no TTRO's have been made to date.

The detail about A505 closures were misrepresented by the organisers when questioned at the meeting with the Sandon Parish Council Meeting.

NOT RELEVANT

In summary, the location is unsuitable ~~as stated by NHDC when refusing the previous application.~~

1.6.3 The application does not provide for the monitoring of Child pedestrians using the Public Rights of Way. **Child protection and Safety**

1.7.1 Security Fences (PN, CD, PS, PC)

The application states that security fences will be used to ensure the safety of guests. The application does not mention about using these to ensure the safety of local properties.

At 2017 event it was promised in writing by the organisers that fencing would be put in place between Poplars Farm and Clare Cottage.

" I am fencing off access to you from my yard"... the fencing did not materialise. The following communication was received after complaining of drunken trespassers.

"the fencing was missed at the last moment, I apologise for this".

This failure to ensure the safety of our property caused an incident with drunken behaviour by trespassers being caught in our stable yard and hay barn by a third party.

Even worse was the fact that these trespassers were known to Mr Alderman. The communication we received after complaining was

"They were under the impression everything was cool and your yard was connected to (my) house"!!  
What will happen when there are 2999 attendees!

As afore mentioned. Clare Cottage has a perimeter of over 300 metres with Poplars Farm, with open access boundaries and gates. The foot traffic, including children through our property will not be able to be monitored or stopped, especially with a Public Rights of Way going directly through both the proposed Fair and Kids Zone. The risk of straying off the Public Rights of Way will be high.

The risk of roaming from our other boundary with Roe Wood, a length of 400 metres, is also at risk, as the proposed northerly emergency exit will ultimately send the event attendees into this dark, unlit area. "Attacked from both sides!"

Objection: The application shows no respect to safety of third parties or property. **Crime and disorder, Public Nuisance as well as Public Safety.**

#### 1.9. Fire and Emergency points (PS, PN, CD)

The application does not show any meeting locations in the case of an Emergency and an evacuation. The EMP does not state how it would ensure all attendees, staff and guests will be accounted for in the case of an Emergency. The event location is 20 acres, with the emergency dispersal area outside the event across miles of unlit open farmland or countryside around the vicinity of Roe Green.

The Event location has only one access road that will be used for both the entrance and exit. This is a single track drive along most of its length. Emergency Services will be hampered by exiting cars and more so by pedestrians leaving the event were the services required to attend an incident.

#### 1.10. Sandon Fields Fair – Risk assessment - Funfair/ Kids zone2. (PS, CD, PN)

This supporting document shows anomalies to the proposed event facilities within the EMP.

For example:

Point #12, states that Catering units will be blocked together in the Zone 2 etc etc.

However the Noise section of the EMP site plan shows the catering blocks in Zone 3.

The EMP states Zone 3 will be closed at 20:30, but then refers to refreshments and food stalls being available from 2:00 on the Sunday after the closedown of the music.

What is correct?

There is no statement with regards to the HSE policy of this area, specifically the CBT/DBS checks that would be required for the operators of the proposed activities and the safety checks required of any equipment brought into the event.

Objection: The lack of preventative measures made in the application to cover **Child safety, Public Safety** within the Fair and Kids Zone.

## 2. Objections on Specific Statements from the Application and Event Management Plan (EMP)- (PS, PN, PC, CD)

### 1.1 Event Location. Main Entrance and Emergency Services

- Referenced above, the Poplars Farm drive is single track for much of its length

### 1.2 Event Summary

- The audience profile from the 2017 event, is not substantiated in detail. The type of music being played will determine the audience profile. With live music being stopped at 23:00 and switched to recorded the audience character is likely to change. The potential for Crime and Disorder and Public Disorder may also change with the demographics of the audience as the event changes from a family event to more DJ "garage" orientated scenario

### 1.3 Site Design

- The Appendices in the EMP have not been provided so no comment can be made

#### 1.3.1 Site Entry Points / Security Control

- What happens if a car has people with different coloured wristbands?
- How will all car passengers be searched; will they all have to get out of the car before entering the event. Drink, drugs, fireworks etc can be hidden on a person or within the car. Will all car boots be searched to ensure they do not have excessive volumes of alcohol?

#### 1.3.2 Fire Patrol and Emergency Vehicles

- Please see previous details on Poplars farm being a single lane drive for most of its length

### 1.3.3 Emergency Gates

- Not all Public footfall gates are 2m wide. Kissing gates are in place on certain routes
- Emergency gates will lead evacuations onto unlit farmland, with trenches and ponds in close proximity

1.4 n/a

### 1.5 Licensable activities.

- Unable to comment, no Appendices provided

### 1.6 Dates and Times

- How will Day ticket holders be dispersed from the event location within a reasonable period?
- How will day ticket holders be checked that the attendee has left the event location and not unnoticed to the camping zone instead, and still be within the event location?
- How will day tickets holders be dispersed from the local vicinity?
- How will traffic leaving the event be controlled and directed along the proposed routes?
- Non-operating Hours. How will attendees be kept within the event location and not "roam" the local vicinity? What will stop vehicles leaving and returning?

## 2 1.7 Event Team

The information provided on the individuals nominated does not outline specific detail of their past and present experiences apart from the CV of John Heath

## 3 Event Specifics

3.1 N/A. There are no specific statements available from the Services, HPS, HFS to be able to comment upon.

There was no 2015 event so what is this reference to?

2.1 1. Capacities. How has the calculation of Performers and Staff attendees made from? What is the number of proposed Security personnel to ensure that the event attend, local residents and the vicinity are safe.

2.1.4 Venue Timings and capacities. No detailed site plans available to comment

2.1.3. Venue exiting Times. This has already been discussed previously in the document. Single track drive, emergency services going against the flow of event evacuation etc, kissing gates, flow rates inaccurate, the Green room area evacuation into a closed in area

2.2.4 Fencing and Barriers. Due to the Public Rights of way across the event location, the site cannot be enclosed and secured down.

2.4.2 "Most appliances brought on site are hired from reputable companies!".....and some are not?

2.4.3 Site Lighting. Is this sufficient, for example: The tower lights as shown on the Site plan provided with the EMP will shine directly into Zone 3. There is no back light to assist with exiting, especially in an emergency. Public Safety

2.5.2 Fire Safety Checks. "2 checks at 11:00 and 23:00, on both days". i.e only 3 checks carried out for the length of the event. Is this sufficient considering the proposed volumes of attendees especially with overnight camping? Public Safety

2.5.5 Fireworks and Sparklers. No mention of banning flares, naked flame lighting in tents or Fire lanterns. Also where the bag search is located, all types of naked flames could be brought into the event location via vehicles

2.7 Crowd Management. See separate statements below

2.10 Medical First Aid. Considering the event spans a 33 hour period, they propose only 2 x Paramedics. Are these the same 2 x Paramedics for the length of the event, or will they be working a shift rota? Similarly the 3 first aiders. Potential Public Safety if the former.

### 2.13.3 Waste management

Liquids on Site. Containers will be inspected on arrival to site. HSE regulations advise that hourly inspections should be carried out. Public Safety

2.14.2 Flooding and Wet Weather. The locality is wet by nature. Electrical cables unless grounded and 100% enclosed either underground or overhead will cause a risk. Some of the cable runs will be over 400 metres in length to be able to adequately light emergency exits. These cables will have to skirt the

perimeter of the location to ensure they do not encroach on the Public Rights of Way. There has been no detailed plans of electrical routes to ensure Public Safety. S

#### 2.16 Traffic

2.16.1 Vehicle access. This statement confirms that no vehicle searching will take place on entry. The target is to keep vehicles away from the highway and processed into the car parking zone as quickly as possible. Any inappropriate items will be able to be taken into the event location. Crime and Disorder

2.16.2 Car Parking. As proposed the car parking will be on Public rights of Way. These cannot be redirected without permission. Car Parking is also in close proximity to properties. Emissions, noise as well as **Public Nuisance** will be of grave concern.

2.16.3 Speed of vehicles. How will the 5 mph speed limit be imposed. What are the consequences of repeat offenders? Public Safety and a Public Nuisance by the noise created, especially exiting after the close down at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday. The local roads have a 30 and 40 mph speed limit. How will these be imposed late at night? Public Nuisance and Safety

2.16.4 Traffic Signage. See previous statements on Traffic Management Plan

#### 2.17 Noise

See further detail in document

#### 3.6. Cancellation (Close down) of Event

"The event organisers will make the final decision....after consultation..". Surely, Emergency Services and authorities have the final say? **Public Safety**

3.7 Bomb Threats. Although a minimal risk, they are still a risk and when activated cause catastrophic destruction to property and people. They should not be ignored. Considering that there is a Public Rights of Way and that vehicles will not be searched as they arrive on site, the risk exists. Public safety

#### "The Licencing Objectives"

3.8 Prevention of Public Nuisance. Properties are less than 20 meters away from entrances to residents' properties, not 200-500 metres away with natural and man-made barriers. It is stated that CCTV cameras will be used. No site map has been provided to show how "all" the areas of the event will be covered, considering it is over 22 acres.

The locality of Roe Green around the event location is more than 1 kilometre in length and approx. 25 acres with 3 different routes passing through it. This area is unmanageable to be monitored by SIA badged security on foot, unless there is an "army" of them. Public Safety and Crime and Disorder

3.8.2 Car Parks and camping have been proposed to be sited less than 5 metres from boundaries (see EMP site map), and only 20 metres from properties. Containment of noise from these areas will be hard to control, or even monitor. Public Nuisance

The Artists Green room is less than 40 metres away from properties, this location will form the hub of activity for staff and artists. Public Nuisance

3.8.3 Publicity. "... was well received by a significant portion of local residents...." The previous application had over 40% of Roe Green residents objecting in writing/person. It was not well received!

3.9.1 "All guests will be searched on entry". This is ambiguous to the traffic flow process stated earlier in the EMP. Vehicles will be encouraged to enter the event and park as quickly as possible to "encourage traffic flow". A signed statement from a local resident (Colin Shaw) who was present at the 2017 event, has been provided to NHDC as an objection to this application, " ....experienced the prevalent odour of cannabis. I have great concern about the introduction of this culture in my home environment". This statement show that the drugs policy last year was ineffective, as a pilot event these processes should have been a major concern to be rectified and managed accordingly.

3.10.1 Alcohol. As with drugs, vehicles will not be searched. With online ticketing, under 18's will be able to purchase adult tickets. Will every attendee be challenged at the main entrance?

Separate wrist bands for under 18's will be used, with mobile phone numbers of a responsible adult required. Will these mobile numbers be checked to the effect that the number provided is in fact genuine and is serviceable? Child Safety, Public Nuisance and Crime and Disorder

### 3.10.2. Explicit material.

This statement is an example that the template used to complete this EMP has not been produced with the due diligence required for an event of this size. Sandon Fields is supposedly a Family orientated event, what explicit material is proposed? Child Safety, Public Nuisance

### 3. Specific Points under the 4 Key Premises Application Conditions, that have not been considered

- It is possible to access virtually the whole of Poplars Farm via various routes around its perimeter, not just those shown on the application. Unless Security fencing is provided for the whole area the Premises Area is vulnerable. The parking area is not secure.
- How will CCTV be used as a prevention, these type of devices only record incidents. In experience, CCTV does not stop incidents occurring only the recording of it
- Wristbands do not stop underage drinking, only the purchasing of it.
- Searches for glass will be carried out by body searches. This does not include vehicles. Clare Cottage has a history of glass bottles being thrown onto the property from past events, including the 2017 event, held at Poplars Farm.
- Challenge 25 cannot stop drinking away from the bar areas, only the purchasing of alcohol. How will the drinking of alcohol by under age drinkers be monitored on a site area of over 20 acres
- How will the ticketing stop a 17 year old buying an adult ticket online
- Guests can be invited to leave quietly, but how will guests causing noise nuisance be controlled outside of the event boundaries, especially on the highways after 2:30 in the morning when the proposed event will be bedding down. The 2017 event had crowds of youths over the length of Roe Green well into the night
- How will all Guests, support staff, artists, campers etc keep noise to a minimum away from the music arenas. Clare Cottage is just 40 metres away from the proposed facilities that will be used on an ongoing basis throughout the event.
- Litter. Some months after the 2017 event litter was still being blown onto adjacent property. Glass bottles and glasses have always been a concern especially when scattered onto paddocks. From the 2017 event (and past events held at Poplars farm) we have always had problems with these being discarded without regard to the danger to animals (or humans). An after clean-up is all well and good, the harm to animals could already have been caused.
- Statement on Security teams patrolling outside the event area. The area outside the event covers over 1 kilometre in length for the highways alone, with a further 1 - 2 klm when you include surrounding farmland. Boundaries to neighbouring properties a further 3/4 kilometre. There is no provision of security personnel planned to be in these areas to ensure the safety of animals and private property. The "smaller" 2017 event had incidents at these localities.

An example of a 2017 incident has already been detailed, but it should be noted other properties connected to Poplars Farm had similar issues of trespassers from the event.

During the 2017 event my wife slept overnight in our hay barns to ensure the safety of horses. (it was not the first time she has had to do this). This is not a favoured option but has to be carried out to ensure the safety of our property and animals. Clare Cottage has had numerous occasions of such incidents whenever parties/events have been held at Poplars farm. One such incident was when an emergency visit from the vets were required at 2:30 in the morning. Outside 3rd parties in the stable yard were not the flavour of the day.

There have been incidents at Poplars Farm reported to the police, not from Clare Cottage, where their attendance has been required. Details of these records I am sure will be available from the police. We have had letters of apology about incidents and issues from Mr Alderman after events have been held on more than one occasion.

- Statement on Street drinking not being allowed.

Post the 2017 event, complaints were made, to the NHDC, with regards to this.

- “all gates will be closed in the event of a lost child”  
Considering there are 2 Public Rights of Way across the proposed event location, any proposal to close down entrances will require planning approval from the highways authority. However Poplars farm has many access points along the length of its perimeter through hedgerows.
- Photograph 1a and 1b show the tying up of Public Rights of Way kissing gates without approval from the 2017 pilot event.

#### 4. NOISE

The Noise Council and the UK Government guidance and legislations, and depending which one you read are:

- The Noise Plan, does not provide specific details as to where the noise readings were actually taken, only “close to the nearest property”. The exact position should be verified by a photograph or map location as proof.
- The Music Noise level should not exceed 65db over a 15 minute period between 9:00 and 23:00 for events held in a Rural Venue. You cannot get much rural than Poplars Farm, but it is highly recommended that a continual 1 minute period of monitoring is carried out and ensures the threshold is not broken. The readings taken by the applicants Noise specialists show that the normal ambience levels of the location measured would be increased 2 fold.
- Fairgrounds, and other noise such as increased vehicle traffic should be taken into account when applying noise limits
- Any prevailing noise should be borne in mind, e.g audience “participation”, when applying noise limits
- “For events continuing after 23:00 or held between the hours of 23:00 and 9:00 the music noise should not be audible within noise sensitive premises with windows open in a typical manner for ventilation”
- The official Environment government guideline is that between 23:00 and 7:00 in Environment policy act 1990 “unreasonable and substantial interference with use or the enjoyment of a home ...or a premises. The permitted noise if the ambience is over 10db is 34 db.

i.e Taking the applicants noise readings as a guidance, the increase in noise level can only be 7db's, after the hours of 23:00.

#### 5. Medical Plan

- The medical plan states 4 first aiders will be available. The EMP states 3, what is correct?

I would like to make a representation in person when this application is reviewed by NHDC, thank you

With Regards

Ian Dell  
Clare Cottage  
Roe Green  
Sandon  
SG90QG  
Phone:  
Email:

Photograph 1a and 1b

Photos of gates tie wrapped stopping access across a The Icknield Way public rights of way from the 2017 pilot event



Photograph 2

Highways on Roe Green, unauthorised limitations of road access, and signs blocking the highway through the use of cones during the 2017 event. This also shows how narrow the access roads to Poplars farm are, especially when unauthorised bollards are placed in the road.





Photograph 5. Social Media of “after hours party being advertised



Photograph 6, example of dangerous overhead electrical wires from the 2017 event



## Hannah Sweetman

---

**From:** on behalf of Sandra Waddington  
**Sent:** 15 March 2018 09:58  
**To:** Hannah Sweetman  
**Subject:** Sandon Fields Licence application

Dear Ms Sweetman

NOT RELEVANT

~~I have been informed that the applicant for Sandon Fields Festival, which was rejected by NHDC on all 4 licencing objectives in early February, has re-submitted the application.~~

The email that the applicant sent (see below) states that the majority of Sandon residents are in favour of this - ~~and that the proceeds will be given to the school to tarmac the playground.~~ Well I personally think this statement is untrue ~~and that using the school benefiting from it can be interpreted as a bribe.~~

NOT RELEVANT

I would like to register my **OBJECTION** to this licence - although it seems that regardless of the rejection by NHDC, the organisers are planning to go ahead with it anyway.

Sandon is a peaceful, rural village and the venue is surrounded by residential properties - NOT the place for this kind of event.

Serving alcohol until early hours in the morning encourages visitors to come by car and drive home - as there are no accommodation options in the village.

Revellers who do manage to come by pre-organised coach will be highly intoxicated by this time and will be noisy on leaving the village. Anti-social behaviour in the village is a great concern to everyone. All lanes in and out of Sandon are dangerous to navigate at the best of times.

A campsite for over 2000 people is proposed - but the mess and noise from this will be intolerable. There will be disruption for several days before and after the event - what will all these campers do on the Sunday before the festival starts again? There are no facilities, shops, cafes in the village so they will be roaming around the village - so Mr Aldermans comments that "*I really don't think one night per annum and a Sunday afternoon should really ruin everyones lives*" is highly misleading.

~~This would be setting a precedent for future ventures by all and sundry! This application is NOT for a village family event - but for a music festival that will grow year on year if this application is granted.~~

~~IF it is granted, what is to stop the applicant from increasing the number of weekends per year for more money-making events at the expense of the rest of the villagers and the wildlife?~~

NOT RELEVANT

Yours faithfully  
Sandra Waddington  
Green End Farm  
Sandon  
SG9 0RQ

Email received from applicant:

*Dear Villagers and Music Lovers*

*As you may have heard, the first License Application was turned down for this years Sandon Fields Festival, at a hearing at North Herts Council - a couple of weeks ago.*

*The organisers have since however, been overwhelmed by the majority who live in Sandon and surrounding villages, that would very much like the Festival to happen again this year on June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.*

*So far, they have had nearly 3 times as many people - who all live in the vicinity - give their support as opposed to object to the event happening.*

*The organisers therefore feel they owe it to those that would like an alternative event, to currently those on offer in the village.*

*From my own standpoint, I really don't think one night per annum and a Sunday afternoon should really ruin everyones lives – in fact quite the opposite should be true!*

*The organisers are hosting a **Public Meeting in the Village Hall** for all to air their views at **7.15pm on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March** and make suggestions to help the event run smoother for all concerned.*

*I purposely took a back seat on this last time, which perhaps was a mistake in hindsight.*

*I have lived on Roe Green for nearly 27 years now and was the Founder of another event 20 years ago on Roe Green that raised enough money for a new Classroom at the School.*

*The event was called "Rock on Roe Green" (I was a school Governor at the time)*

*We will be doing something along the same lines to support Sandon School at this event and plan to make a sizeable contribution towards resurfacing the playground with tarmac.*

*We would be most grateful to get all the village's support for this event this time and to that end I would like the opportunity to see everyone at the meeting on the 5th.*

*It is important that everyone who supports, or has certain reservations about the event, comes along to the meeting.*

*The next Festival was planned last year for June 2018 as some band bookings had to be made well in advance. Consequently, for timing reasons, the organisers have had to go ahead with another application without the chance to meet with Sandon Villagers, as we don't want to start selling tickets without a License - However the Event Management Plan can be amended up to 28 days before the event, so if any issues were raised at our meeting, these could be put in place, even after a successful application. The organisers have taken on many of the issues raised from individual objections at the hearing, and made some serious concessions to, the numbers of people attending, finishing times and adjusted positions of the camping site to alleviate any disturbance or nuisance. The Saturday event is planned to have a number of hit DJ's and Bands for the younger at heart element with the main stage shutting down at 11pm. Sunday we plan for some "family nostalgia" on (hopefully!) a Sunny Sunday afternoon with the **Kinks!** (At least 3 original members playing)*

*Finally, on a personal level – It was never my intention to cause discord in the village – quite the reverse. All those that attended last year had a thoroughly fun time and many neighbors did not even hear the music or witness any Issues. It is my intention to oversee a well-run, trouble free and neighborly event for everyone in Sandon to feel justly proud of and especially for those who live on Roe Green.*

*You never know, it could well raise demand for people to come and live here!*

*We would like to talk to everyone personally and present the Event Management Plan with Richard at the meeting and particularly to show how traffic is being managed away from the village.*

*We will make sure refreshments are provided.*

*Whether a Supporter who enjoyed last years event or neighbour's who have Concerns – **Please Come!** This is everyone's opportunity to air their views!*

*Best Wishes*

*Lawrence Alderman*

*Poplars Farm*

*On behalf of the Organisers of Sandon Fields Festival*

## Hannah Sweetman

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**From:** Licensing  
**Sent:** 19 March 2018 09:20  
**To:** Hannah Sweetman  
**Subject:** FW: Sandon Fields Licensing Application LC/6845

**From:** Ian Tansley  
**Sent:** 16 March 2018 16:56  
**To:** Licensing  
**Subject:** Sandon Fields Licensing Application LC/6845

Dear Sirs

I am writing to **object** to the above application.

Having read the application and supporting documents in detail I am of the opinion that the proposed event is inappropriate for Sandon. The village is one of the quietest and most tranquil locations in Hertfordshire. It is accessible only by 3 mile long single track roads and the main intended access route passes directly through the centre of the village, past the church, village green and school. There are no public transport links.

The noise level proposed will be intolerable for all residents of Roe Green and unpleasant for everyone in Sandon as a whole; particularly on warm summer afternoons when people will be enjoying their gardens or have their windows open. In addition, I note that the ambient noise level stated in the appendix to the application does not mention either when the sound test was carried out nor what the prevailing weather conditions were at the time. In reality the ambient noise level in Sandon, on a summer afternoon, rarely exceeds 30db - which is dead silence.

My opinion is that the village cannot safely or reasonably sustain an event on this scale. Specifically I'm particularly concerned about: Public nuisance, crime and disorder, protection of children from harm and public safety.

Regards

Ian Tansley

The Old Granary, Sandon, SG90RA

## Hannah Sweetman

---

**From:** Licensing  
**Sent:** 19 March 2018 09:19  
**To:** Hannah Sweetman  
**Subject:** FW: Sandon fields premises license application

From: Kay Bolton  
Sent: 16 March 2018 17:07  
To: Licensing  
Subject: Sandon fields premises license application

I strongly object to the above license being granted.

A 2 day music event would mean a lot of extra traffic, on very narrow lanes, with extra noise into the early hours, and a drinking licence also into the early hours. The disruption to this quite residential village would be unbearable. As a single person I would not feel safe having large numbers of people wandering around the village especially after dark.

K Bolton, Payne end Sandon

## Hannah Sweetman

---

**From:** Licensing  
**Sent:** 19 March 2018 09:19  
**To:** Hannah Sweetman  
**Subject:** FW: Premises Licence application at Poplars Farm, Sandon Fields, North Herts

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Lawrence  
**Sent:** 16 March 2018 18:35  
**To:** Licensing  
**Subject:** Premises Licence application at Poplars Farm, Sandon Fields, North Herts

Dear Sirs

We wish to record our objection to the granting of a Premises Licence for people to attend music events at Poplars Farm, Sandon, North Hertfordshire in 2018 and in future years.

Our reasons are:

1. The local infrastructure cannot support such a major increase in traffic along rural roads where two vehicles cannot pass side by side at present. There already is scant regard for the speed limits in Redhill and Rushden.

2. It is proposed to hold the event in a conservation area and any increase in traffic, either vehicular or on foot will seriously damage the surrounding countryside.

3. The noise levels from such an event will seriously affect residents in the surrounding countryside.

4. We are also concerned about the increase in crime, public nuisance and general disorder which always accompany such events and the effect on public safety for the local population.

NOT  
RELEVANT

Yours faithfully

--  
Lawrence and Joyce Dawe  
SG9 0SL

Flint Cottage, Treacle Lane, Rushden, Buntingford, SG9 0SL.

## Hannah Sweetman

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**From:** Licensing  
**Sent:** 19 March 2018 09:18  
**To:** Hannah Sweetman  
**Subject:** FW: LC/6845 Application for premises licence Roe Green, Poplars Farm

**From:** Ellen Knuepfe  
**Sent:** 17 March 2018 15:27  
**To:** Licensing  
**Subject:** LC/6845 Application for premises licence Roe Green, Poplars Farm

Dear Licensing North Herts,

I was made aware of a licence application for a music/festival event to be held in **Populars Farm, Roe Green, Sandon** for up to 4999 people, under the **alcohol and entertainment licensing**.

I have **strong objections** to this application due to noise pollution, especially as the event seeks a license to play music till 1:30 am. Additionally the amount of traffic going through the small streets of the neighbourhood will cause a significant increase in air pollution, and more noise. Having an additional 4999 people flooding a small village with the addition of alcohol being supplied is a recipe for disaster.

~~There are already multiple music festival sites in Hertfordshire, not being placed in the heart of a village and these should be sufficient to allow music fans to enjoy the festival atmosphere - and importantly without destroying the enjoyment to the local residence.~~

NOT RELEVANT

On these grounds I would like to ask the council to reject the application LC/6845.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Ellen Knuepfer  
3 Southern Green  
Rushden  
SG9 0SR



## Hannah Sweetman

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**From:** Licensing  
**Sent:** 19 March 2018 09:17  
**To:** Hannah Sweetman  
**Subject:** FW: Poplars farm - SandonFields/music festival - premises Licence Application

**From:** T WHITTON  
**Sent:** 17 March 2018 18:45  
**To:** Licensing  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Poplars farm - SandonFields/music festival - premises Licence Application

WE wish to register our strong objection to the above Application. It will effect an area covering anything up to 10 square miles from the proposed site.

The numbers proposed who will participate in the event is huge for a small local community with an increase in traffic volumes, excess noise which will carry far and wide up until an unacceptable early morning hour and the potential for increase in local nuisance and even crime levels, plus possible adverse effects on the young as well as public safety.

It must be refused by NHDC with no further right to appeal.

TCF Whitton  
Mrs El Whitton

Rushden

Southern Green House, Rushden, Buntingford, Herts, SG9 0SX.

## Hannah Sweetman

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**From:** Licensing  
**Sent:** 19 March 2018 09:16  
**To:** Hannah Sweetman  
**Subject:** FW: LC/6845 Sandon Fields Licensing Application

-----Original Message-----

From: David Wardley  
Sent: 17 March 2018 20:56  
To: Licensing  
Subject: LC/6845 Sandon Fields Licensing Application

Dear Sirs

I am writing with regard to the above application.

In my opinion this event ( and any further 'events') would be totally out of place in a small village environment.

The impact on the local infrastructure would be intolerable. (As witnessed by a similar event last year).

The impact as to the noise levels (in what is a small quiet rural location) would mean that on a summer evening residents would have to keep windows and doors closed just to get some peace and quiet.

~~The other problem I foresee is that once one or two events are allowed this will inevitably lead to more and more.~~

NOT RELEVANT

The event is effectively taking part in the rear garden ( however large it is) of the property which I find totally inappropriate.

On a personal level although the end of the proposed site backs on to fields there are properties quite close (my property is approximately 150 mts from the rear of proposed site).

As you can imagine this means interrupted evenings.

I cannot express myself enough as to my opposition to this totally inappropriate and out of place event ('s).

NOT RELEVANT

~~As far as I can see this application has changed very little from the original failed application, so all earlier points made are still relevant.~~

~~If granted this will set a precedent for future (and larger) events~~ Sandon village is a totally inappropriate environment for a event such as this, the village doesn't even have a shop or Public house so what 5,000 people will do between acts is of great concern.

Regards

David Wardley

Springers Barn  
Rushden Road  
Sandon  
SG90QP

## Hannah Sweetman

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**From:** Licensing  
**Sent:** 19 March 2018 09:13  
**To:** Hannah Sweetman  
**Subject:** FW: Licensing Application (LC/6845)

**From:** Anna Rustec'  
**Sent:** 18 March 2018 15:31  
**To:** Licensing  
**Subject:** Licensing Application (LC/6845)

Dear Sir/Madam,

### Re: Licensing Application (LC/6845)

With respect to the application for the "Sandon Fields Event" and as a resident of Sandon I am writing to register my concerns in respect of the

- The site of the proposed event is such that it can only be accessed by local rural roads which are narrow in parts and include hazards of sharp bends, blind summits and roaming wildlife; the volume of traffic generated by the proposed event represents a highway safety risk. It is recognised it is limited in impact as the Event is proposed to be held only once annually, therefore this limitation of activity must be enforced in the case of the application being granted
- The intended Event will inevitably generate significant noise from music and the gathering of numbers of people. Whilst there may be some mitigation from the proposed location of the event away from residential properties and natural acoustic protection of tall hedges, any permission granted should again ensure that this is only an occasional (once a year event) to avoid the continuous disturbance to the rural environment
- The nature of the proposed Event raises concerns of the potential for antisocial behaviour that could have a direct impact on the village. It is a reality that large gatherings of people where alcohol is served presents a risk for occasions of anti-social behaviour to occur and such a scenario has an obvious risk of detrimental impact on the character of the village. Therefore permission for this event should only be granted subject to the control measures outlined in the Planning Document and again, limited to a single occurrence per year.

In summary, due to the above concerns, my view is permission should only be granted with strict conditions of limitation. I trust these remarks will be taken into consideration in reviewing the application.

Yours faithfully

Anna Rusted Smallwood  
East Barn  
Gannock Green  
Sandon

## Hannah Sweetman

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**From:** Licensing  
**Sent:** 19 March 2018 09:11  
**To:** Hannah Sweetman  
**Subject:** FW: Poplars Farm-Sandonfields MusicFestival (LC/6845)

**From:** Emma Bolton  
**Sent:** 18 March 2018 19:42  
**To:** Licensing  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Poplars Farm-Sandonfields MusicFestival (LC/6845)

Longways, RoeGreen, Sandon, Buntingford, Herts. SG90QE 18/3/2018

Dear Hannah Sweetman,

I would like to strongly object to the Notice of Application for a Premises Licence made by Poplars Farm-Sandonfields Music Festival (LC/6845).

I feel that the location is completely unsuitable as Roe Green, Sandon is a very quiet, rural residential village with no pub and only one equestrian/farm shop. The event site is very close to houses and has a public footpath running through it. At the event in 2017 people were coming out of the event fields via the footpath and causing noise and disruption on the footpath which runs parallel to our garden. This application proposes that 1000 people will be camping in the field. We are very concerned that the campers will be able to use the footpath to leave the camp and become a nuisance on the common land, littering, causing noise and entering our private property as the footpath is 2 metres away from our back door.

Our road system is completely unsuitable for an event of this size. We have small, mostly single lane, rural roads with few passing places and they are hazardous at the best of times with many pot holes and flooding in wet weather. They are also dangerous as herds of deer, that live in the area, often cross unexpectedly and a great many cyclists come from miles around particularly during the summer and autumn. I walk my dog along all the footpaths in this area and the majority of them lead you onto the road for long stretches. Even the morning and afternoon school runs from our small village school mean that I have to avoid walking on the roads at these times as they become extremely dangerous due to the blind bends and high hedges. An event of this size will mean our roads will be unusable for 2-3 days either side of the event with large lorries and vans and unsafe over the weekend of the festival with high volumes of cars.

In 2017 music could be heard for the duration of the event and caused us a great deal of distress. We do not want to go through this again and can see no improvements to prevent this happening. We also experienced a lot of noise from the cars and lorries and as this application is for up to 3000 people (considerably more than last year) the traffic noise will be unbearable and will cause a lot of fumes especially when queuing to enter the event.

The people who came out of the festival spread litter over the common land and play area and residents had to complain to the event organizers in order to get it removed, which is unacceptable.

Our children's play area on our common land is opposite the proposed entrance to the festival. The road between the entrance and the play area is barely wide enough for 2 cars to pass each other and there is no

fence around the children's play area. I feel it would be woefully irresponsible and negligent to grant the licence to an event that would allow up to 3000 cars (and large lorries) to pass so close. Any child could easily run out onto the road and be injured. We have no pavements and very high grass verges either side of the road so, with the increase of traffic, I would be unable to push my grandchild's pushchair along the road and we would be unable to get to the play area for a week if this event goes ahead as it would be too dangerous to get there. I would also be seriously concerned about the children from the festival getting run over trying to use the area as well.

My husband and I briefly went to the festival last year because we thought it was a 'one off' event and we wanted to see what it was like. We were very disappointed about the security. My husband was searched but as there were no women attendants available to do the search, I was allowed to enter unchecked and could easily have taken in a knife or drugs. The cars and people were all walking/driving on the same entrance. Many people wandered into Roe Green Wood which is a conservation area and children could have got lost or injured. Whilst we were there we also saw two people openly taking drugs. We were very upset about this and left immediately. If cars are to be brought onto site this time then how will they prevent more drugs being brought into the campsite? And how will they prevent people that have used drugs from using the public footpath and going onto the common land or entering peoples gardens or homes and committing crimes?

~~There will be no economic benefit to our village as we have been informed at the public meeting that no local village people will be employed and no local companies will be used to supply or run the event.~~

NOT RELEVANT

We know that 80% of Roe Green has signed a petition and objected to his event. The public nuisance, disorder, crime and risk to our children's safety that will again result from the Sandonfields festival will cause unnecessary distress to us all.

Regards,  
Emma Bolton.

## Hannah Sweetman

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**From:** Licensing  
**Sent:** 19 March 2018 09:11  
**To:** Hannah Sweetman  
**Subject:** FW: Objection to the granting of a Premises Licence for Poplars Farm

**From:** kieran lloyd  
**Sent:** 18 March 2018 20:03  
**To:** Licensing  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Objection to the granting of a Premises Licence for Poplars Farm

Dear Sir/Madam

I would like to raise an objection to the granting of a premises licence for Poplars Farm for the "Sandon Fields" festival planned to be held on an (unspecified) weekend from June to September 2018, and further subsequent years. I object for a number of reasons, summarised below.

1. All routes to Poplars Farm are via narrow roads and lanes. Such a large surge of traffic, including heavy goods vehicles, on the days of and around the festival will overwhelm these small country lanes. This is very likely to cause a hazard to other users, especially for the many people who use them recreationally such as horse riders and cyclists. Furthermore, the roads are already in a bad state and such a large increase in traffic is likely to cause further damage to the local infrastructure.
2. The proximity to residential properties. The event is likely to cause significant public nuisance to all residents of the village in one form or another. There will be a significant amount of noise and light pollution from the festival itself as well as from the traffic. And we are likely to see a repeat of the large scale littering on the common land as witnessed last year.
3. The proposed entrance to the site is directly across from a children's play area and the communal sports fields. This raises a real concern regarding the safety of children especially considering the amount of traffic going passed an unfenced play area (most likely during the school summer holidays) . It would also disrupt any one who wanted to make use of the cricket or football fields during this time and pose a risk to their safety.
4. I am going to be a new father in a couple of weeks and the only way of me accessing the communal facilities or visiting neighbours with my baby is to use a pushchair along the main road. This is already risky enough with no pedestrian walkways, but with 3000 extra vehicles on the road, this becomes an impossibly dangerous task.
5. Due to the nature of the site I do not believe it is possible to make the festival and the campsite secure enough to avoid potential crime and disorder, and also prevent it from overspilling out of the "festival" and into the community.
6. Finally the granting of such an application provides no material benefit to the local community.

NOT RELEVANT

Yours Sincerely  
Kieran Lloyd

Longways, Roe Green, Sandon, SG9 0QE

## Hannah Sweetman

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**From:** Licensing  
**Sent:** 19 March 2018 09:10  
**To:** Hannah Sweetman  
**Subject:** FW: Objection to premises licence for Poplars farm music festival

**From:** Laura Lloyd  
**Sent:** 18 March 2018 20:25  
**To:** Licensing  
**Subject:** Objection to premises licence for Poplars farm music festival

Ms Sweetman

I would like to raise an objection to the granting of a premises licence for poplars farm for the 'Sandon Fields' Festival.

All the routes to Poplars farm are down very narrow roads which are currently in a very poor condition as it is, the huge increase of traffic, before, during and after would damage the roads further and bring serious danger to the many walkers, pedestrians and horse riders who also use these roads.

Furthermore, there are no pedestrian paths along side the roads, due to this I have to push my pram and baby along the road. The increase of at least three thousand extra cars to the traffic would make it completely unsafe to do so. On top of this, there will also be cones all along the edge of the road through the village, to stop people parking, meaning that I would be forced to push my pram in the middle of a suddenly very busy road, endangering myself, my child and others in the process. The grass banks along the edge of the road are extremely high and I certainly could not get my pram up them in an emergency to get out of the way in time, should cars be driving recklessly or unsuitably, for single country roads they are not used to.

Also, the children's play area and the common sports facility's is directly across from the proposed 'Sandon Fields' festival, last year after the event there was litter, needles and other drug taking paraphernalia covering the children's play area and common sports facility, making it unsafe for me to be able to take my child to without the risk of injury to them or myself. There is no fencing around any of the children's play area or common sports facility's, the children's play area comes right to the edge of the t-junction, normally rushden road is a very quiet road and isn't much concern. However with the sudden increase in traffic of at least 3 thousand cars and heavy goods vehicles this poses a very high risk and danger to any children playing on or around the area.

The proximity of the proposed event to residential properties is going to cause significant public nuisance from noise, light, smells and litter. Last year the noise could be heard everywhere within the area of Roe Green and most parts of Sandon. Due to the very open nature of the site I do not believe it possible to make it secure enough to avoid potential crime and disorder, especially with public rights of way travelling through all the locations. The festival noise, light, increase of cars and heavy good vehicles will disturb and scare the horses and livestock in surrounding fields and scare horses people are out riding on and put them and others at risk. Many walkers and bird watchers also come to this area they will be unable to use the footpaths surrounding and through the festival due to the sheer amount of people and parking.

Overall I feel that granting such a licence would be incredibly detrimental, dangerous and damaging to the village and local area, and therefore should not be granted.

Mrs Laura Lloyd

Longways, Roe Green, Sandon, Buntingford, SG9 0QE.

## Hannah Sweetman

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**From:** Paul Bolton  
**Sent:** 18 March 2018 21:51  
**To:** licencind@north-herts.gov.uk  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Poplars Farm, Sandonfields Music Festival (LC/6845)

Longways, Roe Green, Sandon, Buntingford, Herts SG90QE 18/03/2018  
Dear Ms Sweetman,

I would like to strongly object to the licencing application for this venue.

I consider the location for this event to be totally inadequate and unsuitable for any festival as it is in the middle of a small quiet village, with only one entrance and exit for all vehicles and emergency services.

The roads will only take one car for the majority of the village and surrounding areas. The roads are in a poor condition and flood in bad weather. There are many blind corners and people not accustomed to the area will not be aware of the large amount of deer that cross the roads, day and night, without warning. The excessive amount of traffic that this event will cause will put the many cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders, who frequently use the roads, at serious risk. There are no pavements and unusually high banks at either side of the roads, making it difficult for anyone to get out of the way. As there are no tarmac footpaths we have to use the road to get to the play area or to neighbouring houses and with bollards lining both sides of the road for this event, it will make it impossible for me to push my grandchild's pushchair along the road to get to the play area. The festival will cause heavy vehicles, lorries and cars to disrupt our roads for at least 6 days and our only village child's play area is opposite the entrance to the festival and it will make it unusable for this duration due to the queuing traffic fumes and noise. It will be extremely dangerous for any child to play in this unfenced area and I fear for the safety of our village children and for those attending the festival.

I attended last years event (as residents were given free tickets). On entering the event we handed our tickets over and waited for the two male security guards whilst they frisked the lady in front of us. I was then frisked by a male security guard. He then went to frisk my wife but I pointed out that he could not legally do this as it should be a female security guard and I asked to see Laurie Alderman (the land owner). We were then told to go straight through which I feel showed insufficient security, knowledge and application. We were there for less than 15 minutes as we thought the event was poorly run and saw people openly taking drugs in front of us. I spoke to the security officer in charge of this event, Dale Mabert, at the public meeting for the first application and when I told him what happened and our concerns, he just replied that it didn't happen and seemed uncaring and slightly aggressive. I also mentioned that the public footpath gates were cable tied so the villagers and general public could not use them. He told me that if he had any security issues at the venue he had the right to close the footpaths without warning. I felt he was very negative to my inquires and dismissive of any disruption to the village. I didn't complain at the last application but after the attitude and response I received from my questions I feel that I have to object as the organizers clearly do not have any interest in the amount of disruption and nuisance that they cause the village.

I attended the public meeting which was very poorly advertised. I had to attend this meeting with no information of the details of this application as neither the applicants site nor the NHDC website or the licencing authority had any relevant paperwork that could be accessed. Therefore I could only listen to what was said and the only paperwork distributed was for traffic management and planned sign locations.



At the 2017 festival we could clearly hear all the music in our home and garden throughout the entire event and it caused us a great amount of distress. For this application the sound survey is much more comprehensive but does not take into consideration weather conditions and prevailing winds and how the noise is amplified in such a quiet village.

The organizers cannot possibly predict how many people will be left after 11.30pm and by my calculations the marques are not big enough to hold the amount of people that the event is for. This could lead to people wandering the village and causing disruption and nuisance.

This event would be a public nuisance to all the residents of Roe Green with people walking round the village green, our cricket pitch, pavilion and our gardens. Last year we had festival goers loitering late at night on the public footpath which runs parallel to our garden, 2 metres from our back door, making us feel anxious and intimidated.

I do not think this site can be made safe enough for the campers, children and villagers as a public right of way goes through the area with open fields and woodland to three aspects of the site.

On the proposed site plan the applicant has an emergency entrance and exit across the field of a neighbouring farmer which is used for grazing horses and I do not believe he has been granted permission for this. With the soil conditions in this area, water sits on the surface and readily becomes sodden. Without a proper hard standing road surface being laid down on this sloping field heavy emergency vehicles could become stuck causing risk to life.

In conclusion, the nuisance, possible disorder and crime and the lack of safety to the public and children that this application will cause dictates that it should be refused.

Regards,  
Paul Bolton

## Hannah Sweetman

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**From:** Licensing  
**Sent:** 19 March 2018 09:10  
**To:** Hannah Sweetman  
**Subject:** FW: Sandon Fields

**From:** Adrian Morley  
**Sent:** 18 March 2018 22:09  
**To:** Licensing  
**Subject:** Sandon Fields

We went to the festival in 2017

1. The security at the entrance was very lax as we could have walked in and nobody stopped us.
2. The tokens that were being sold for alcohol were non refundable, so when people were leaving they were selling them to anyone to get their money back.
3. The toilets had no lights in them and weren't very private.
4. We are concerned that this year as it is going to be twice as big and due to it being a 2 day event and camping the village hasn't got a shop if people want to buy anything that isn't at the festival.
5. people turning up early or leaving late after the event where will they go as last year there was someone walking to the festival on the Friday morning where did he stay the night.
6. Due to the numbers being doubled this will have an impact on the neighbours
7. If people go to the festival and don't want to pay for camping they will be camping anywhere.
8. The amount of vehicles driving through the village and narrow lanes will be a hazard as most of the people wont be used to country roads.
9. Cannot work out why last year it wasn't advertised in the village like all other village events it seemed to be a secret.

For these reasons we are against this event happening as we feel this is not a community/family event.

NOT RELEVANT

Adrian and Jackie Morley  
10 Dark Lane  
Sandon  
Buntingford  
Herts  
SG9 0QT

## Hannah Sweetman

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**From:** Mary McElroy  
**Sent:** 18 March 2018 16:39  
**To:** Hannah Sweetman  
**Subject:** Fwd: Premises Licence Application, Poplars Farm, Roe Green, Sandon

**From:** Mary McElroy  
**Date:** 18 March 2018 14:29:12 GMT  
**To:** Hannah Sweetman

### **Subject: Premises Licence Application, Poplars Farm, Roe Green, Sandon**

Without Prejudice

Dear Hannah Sweetman,

I live one house away from Poplars Farm and I write to oppose the granting of a two day premises licence there, currently being applied for for dates in June 2018 and yearly thereafter.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY

Poplars Farm sits alongside and close to all the other houses on the north side of Roe Green, a specially protected conservation area. It, and all of its neighbours give on to a narrow road leading to the village of Sandon. The proposal is to bring some 3,000 people and their vehicles into a very small, rural village. Sandon has a population of between 400 and 500 people. An ENORMOUS increase. People coming from the Buntingford area, many parts of Stevenage and the villages in between, are likely to come across the lanes, single track with passing places for much of their length. People coming from the A10 and those using the proposed signed route via the A505 still have to drive along the roads leading in and out of the village, all of them narrow and winding. The one leading to Poplars Farm has several dangerous blind corners and goes past the children's play area with its slides, swings etc as well as the village cricket and football pitches. There are no pavements in the village. The dangers to walkers, cyclists, people on horseback, other road users and the public in general are obvious.

When you consider that this huge influx of people is likely to take place over quite a short period of time, the lanes around the village are likely to be gridlocked. The 'music festival' held at Poplars Farm in September 2017 was a one day, not a two day event and for a maximum of 1,000 people, yet there were complaints about the long queues of cars, with through traffic directed to wait in line. Villagers are very aware of where deer from the large local herd are most likely to cross our access roads, yet on many occasions I have had near misses as deer burst on to the road after dark. Accidents are much more likely where people do not know the local hazards and are leaving an event of this kind late at night.

#### CHILDREN

Children and young people of all ages both with and without their parents use the play area, football pitch and cricket ground, often walking or cycling to the green. As has been

indicated, the end of Poplars Farm's drive lies directly opposite that area of the green. In summer young people can be around well into the evening and the increased traffic, not least the heavy vehicles needed to construct the stages, lighting, marquees, sound equipment etc will pose an increased danger. These vehicles will be travelling on our narrow roads for some time before and after the event and are likely to restrict the activities on the green which are normally enjoyed in June.

## PUBLIC NUISANCE

Perhaps the most obvious source of public nuisance from a music festival is the noise from the music. The Event Management and Noise Management Plans aim to deliver "...a sound level without significant disturbance to local residents" and even further that noise from the music ".....will not be audible within any noise sensitive premises with windows open for ventilation".

I would suggest that all of the houses in the area are "noise sensitive premises". For the entire duration of the September 2017 event, despite similar claims, the noise was very definitely not only audible but invasive in my cottage despite all the windows being closed and my normally very effective secondary glazing. There has been a whole range of noisy and very noisy parties over the years at Poplars Farm but I have never complained about any of them. For the first time, in 2017, I wrote to NHDC to complain about the noise. My understanding is that other people also complained.

The recognition in the EMP and Noise Management Plans that measures do need to be taken to reduce the effect of noise from an event of this kind is welcome. However, the effectiveness of any products aimed at shielding noise is extremely variable. It is dependent on many different factors such as the quality and suitability of the product, how skilfully it has been installed, the site itself, ( and this is a sloping, uneven site) and the weather conditions at the time. The NMP recognises that crowd noise is impossible to predict. Added to this is the fact that claims about the effectiveness of noise dampening products are usually made with measurements done in factory conditions, not on site. Given all these variables, the claims being made for noise reduction from the crowds, generators, fun fair, music and the camp site cannot really be substantiated. If this licence were to be granted it is likely that there would unreasonable levels of noise until well into the night from the bands, people partying, cars and taxis leaving the event as well as the noise from the campsites where the partying would be likely to continue all of Saturday night into Sunday when an additional set of people would be due to arrive from midday.

## THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER

One of the most serious concerns and the reason why Poplars Farm should not, in my view, be used for any event of this kind whether it finishes at 10pm or midnight or 2am is its porous boundaries. These consist largely of wooden post and rail fencing, designed to contain horses. Because of these porous boundaries a quite massive number of security staff would be needed to patrol the entire perimeter and/or the whole area would need to be properly fenced. The documentation states that fencing ".....will be used to enclose the site in line with the site map". It is difficult to be sure how extensive this fencing might be since the detailed, "high resolution" maps referred to frequently in the EMP as appendices A1, 2 and 3 have not in fact been provided. Fencing was promised to some residents for the September 2017 event, but it did not materialise and there were several instances of people having to be evicted from neighbours' properties. The situation raises issues in the areas of CHILDREN'S and PUBLIC SAFETY, PUBLIC NUISANCE and CRIME and DISORDER.

Risk Management Document,1 Policy: "The audience profile will be those interested in music and wanting to have a friendly, enjoyable event".

How is the management team going to ensure that this IS the audience profile ? The tickets are to be advertised and sold on the internet. There would be no control whatsoever over who buys the tickets and turns up for the event.

It would be foolish to ignore the fact that drugs and music festivals tend to go hand in hand, even if for only a minority of the audience. While the management plan states that everyone will be searched on entry to the site and all illegal substances and alcohol will be confiscated, several public footpaths and rights of way cross the site. At the September 2017 event the gates across the Icknield Way were barred. This is illegal, so since all rights of way are open to the general public how will this point of entry be secured?

It is estimated that about half of the audience, some 1,500 people, will be camping overnight and will be able to be on the site for the entire weekend, from midday on the Saturday right through until the event closes on the Sunday evening. To prevent people leaving and re-entering the campsites, possibly with the "banned substances" would need considerably more security staff to be on duty, particularly through the night, than is indicated by the rather vague statement in the EMP. It mentions a 24 hour/overnight "staffed operation". The campsite is described as completely surrounded by tall hedges to be reinforced with fencing. One of the campsites appears from the small and not very clear map to be located in part of a field. The field does have hedging round it, but the campsite itself does not.

Very few of the highly experienced and very well resourced organisers of large music events would claim that they are able to monitor the entire site round the clock, but their sites are ACTUALLY in the middle of the countryside and certainly NOT in the situation of Poplars Farm, with its close neighbours. There is clearly not just a possibility, but a strong possibility of public nuisance as well as crime and disorder. The event being proposed is entirely unsuitable for this quiet rural area.

Mary McElroy, Polyanna Cottage, Roe Green, Sandon, SG90QG

## Hannah Sweetman

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**From:** KEVIN HORSFORD  
**Sent:** 18 March 2018 13:44  
**To:** Hannah Sweetman  
**Subject:** Sandon Fields Festival

Hi Hannah

With reference to application No LC / 6845 for Poplars Farm Roe Green Sandon concerning The Sandon Fields event I wish to register my objection to this event.  
Having had connections to the village for over 50 years and now own a property on Roe Green I wish to make the following points against this event.

The proposed location of this event will put a strain on the lanes around the village that are not designed to take large numbers of vehicles . There is no public transport serving Sandon so a lot of people attending the event will have to come by car. I understand the proposers want a crowd limit of 3000 which would generate at least 800 vehicles.

With the amount of extra vehicles in the area at that time to my mind would raise concerns of Public Safety as there are no pavements near to the proposed event site. There is also a children's play area near to the proposed entrance to the site which could be affected by the increased volume of traffic.

With the proposed finishing time of the event there will be a lot of vehicles using narrow lanes that they are not used to in the dark. There would also be light pollution for the residents of Sandon with all the extra headlights.

With the actual location of the event a large number of residents will be subjected to excessive noise from the music and other things concerned with the event eg generators.

I have also got concerns over security at the site as the police would have to come quite a long way to quell any potential trouble. The proposers say they are going to have their own security people on site but what happens if they lose control.

Finally taking all things into account I do not think this event will benefit Sandon.

Yours Faithfully

Kevin Horsford  
10 Rose Cottage  
Roe Green  
Sandon  
Herts  
SG9 0QE

## Hannah Sweetman

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**From:** Joan Hoefkens  
**Sent:** 18 March 2018 13:42  
**To:** Hannah Sweetman  
**Subject:** Sandon Fields Licence Application. Poplars Farm, Roe Green.

### AGAINST THE PROPOSAL FOR MUSIC FESTIVAL

I am a resident of Sandon and would like to register our protest against the proposed weekend Pop Music Festival for 3000 to 5000 people from Saturday 12 midday to 2.00am Sunday and on Sunday 12 midday until 7 in the evening, including overnight camping, on the grounds of **Public Nuisance.**

One day is enough. The timing is absurd for a small country village. It should be restricted to finishing by 11am, given that it will take several hours for people to disperse. People expect to sleep at night.

Added to that there are the hours before and after of noise and disruption of the setting up and taking down of such an event. The previous event which was on a smaller scale it took 3 days before and after. Even then many nearby residents were left with rubbish to deal with.

Poplars Farm where the event is proposed is directly opposite our village green, which has a children's playground with swings/slide etc. with so much traffic bringing 1000's plus all the set up vans and lorries, this will be a **Threat to Public Safety.**

Joan Hoefkens,  
Grassmere,  
Mill End,  
Sandon.

Application for Premises Licence No. 6845

Sandon Field, Poplars Farm, Roe Green

I wish to object to the above application in respect of the proposed Sandon Fields Festival during 2018 and the ongoing years thereafter. I refer to the applicant's previous application (6494) and this application appears to be substantively in the same form where the licensing objectives were not fulfilled. Application 6494 was refused. I suggest that this one is too.

NOT RELEVANT

Last year (2017) a one day event was held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September. This has been referred to as a pilot event for 1,000 people. It was certainly not conveyed to the local people that this was to be the case. I understand that many local residents were unhappy with the event and made complaints about the noise, traffic and trespassers to their properties. This application intends to have many more attendees.

#### Noise

The proposed venue is surrounded by many local residential properties and the noise will be easily heard by the residents (as it was last year) including but not limited to the bass levels of music until late in the night. What is deemed as "acceptable" noise by the organisers may not be so to local residents.

The site noise levels are proposing to reflect the number of people attending. Thus, it could be very loud and is likely to be unacceptable to those within the village.

The proposed family/kid's zone is sited behind residential properties and fields containing livestock. Are these intended to be in use until, for example, 02.00?

#### Public Rights of Way

There are public footpaths (the Icknield Way) which run through the proposed venue, including the family/kid's zone and the main parking zone. Last year the rights of way were blocked off, the gates being cable tied and people were physically prevented from gaining access to them. The plan attached to the application states that the Icknield Way footpath runs along the edge of the field in which is sited the family/kid's zone and similarly in the main parking zone. This is not the case. In reality the footpath goes diagonally across both of these fields. It is stated in the application that if a child is reported missing then all gates and doors will be closed. As commendable as this may be, it in effect means that the public rights of way will be barred as they were at last year's event. Public rights of way and protection of children from harm do not accord here.



## Traffic

There is no public transport in the immediate vicinity. Baldock is five miles away and Ashwell not much nearer for the railway stations.

The organisers are expecting many large vehicles for staff and performers plus the car parking for up to 3,000 people although taxis and buses are potentially being arranged. The roads around this area are small country lanes and not suitable for large amounts of traffic and/or large vehicles.

There is one main vehicular access point which is wide enough for one vehicle at a time and is opposite and adjacent to residential property. It is suggested that each attendee will be searched before entry is allowed. With the best will in the world this will lead to queuing. The queues will disrupt local traffic and potentially adjacent villages and possibly up to and including A505. The A505 is a fast dual carriageway and any backup on this could prove to be fatal.

## Public Safety

The event zone which will contain the stages and bar is a very small area to hold potentially 3,000 people per day. The application refers to a site of 22 acres but this is as a whole, including the main house, family/kid's zone, main parking, family/overflow camping area, overflow parking, artists' parking, staff parking and emergency area. The event zone itself is small and potentially a crush risk with a large pond adjacent to it.

In conclusion I would suggest that this is not a suitable venue for such an event and that the village cannot sustain this event due to potential public nuisance, crime and disorder, protection of children from harm and public safety. The previous application failed on all counts and I cannot see that this application has addressed those deficiencies.

Deborah Krempel

NOT RELEVANT

Elm Tree House, Roe Green, Sandon

## Hannah Sweetman

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**From:** Lyn Packman  
**Sent:** 17 March 2018 15:03  
**To:** Hannah Sweetman  
**Subject:** Fwd: Sandon Fields

Dear Ms Sweetman,

NOT RELEVANT

I wrote to you on 4th January with my thoughts regarding the previous licensing application for an annual Sandon Fields musical event. My previous comments still stand for this new, revised application. These are as follows:

- 1) I live in Rushden, approximately three miles from the event. Last year it was held for one day with one thousand people but the noise, even at this distance was very intrusive - and this was in the house with all the doors and windows shut and the television on. It would not have been possible to spend any time comfortably outside.
- 2) The latest proposal is for more than double the number of people who were at the original event and these numbers will have a much greater impact on the surrounding area including narrow lanes that are not designed to take so much traffic.
- 3) The proposal is for the event to take place over two days, with very many people staying on-site overnight and not finishing on the Sunday night until 7pm. Whatever action the organisers take, it will not dampen down the noise sufficiently to reduce the negative impact on properties over a large area.
- 4) This part of the countryside is one of the few peaceful and unspoilt areas in this part of Hertfordshire and is totally unsuited to the large volume of people, traffic and excessive noise that will be generated.

5) The last licensing application was, quite rightly, refused and very sensible reasons given for this. I do not believe that the minor changes that have been made in this latest application adequately address any of these issues.

NOT RELEVANT

In view of the above comments, I would urge you not to allow this event to go ahead.

Yours sincerely,

M Packman (Mrs),  
Church End Cottage,  
Rushden, Herts.,  
SG9 0SG.

## Hannah Sweetman

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**From:** Licensing  
**Sent:** 16 March 2018 15:45  
**To:** Molly Shiells; Hannah Sweetman  
**Subject:** FW: LC6845 Poplars Farm-SandonFields

From: Louisa Moresco  
Sent: 15 March 2018 21:57  
To: Licensing  
Subject: LC6845 Poplars Farm-SandonFields

Please would you consider the following comments as objections to the above application on the points of Protection of Children from Harm, Public Nuisance, Public Safety and Crime and Disorder.

- 1) The proposed venue is located in the centre of a small, very rural village and is directly opposite playing fields and a children's playground and therefore inappropriate considering the points Protecting Children from Harm and Public Nuisance.
- 2) The need to redirect traffic through country lanes as per the Traffic Management Plan is hardly appropriate or in keeping with a 'Local Family Event' and will, given the number of festival goers being catered for, be dangerous, disruptive.
- 3) Access to the centre of the village is predominately via single track country lanes which are without street lighting, paths, kerbs and are generally in a very poor state of repair. Increased traffic will jeopardise everyone's safety. There are no parking facilities or opportunities in the village and no room for minicabs, coaches etc to manoeuvre.
- 4) Accommodating 2000-3000 festival revellers in tents overnight with alcohol on sale all night and entertainment delayed until the following afternoon will result in people leaving the site to wander in the village where there no facilities and this is likely to cause public nuisance and potentially crime and disorder.

Please could you register these objection.

Yours truly

Louisa Moresco

Gannock Cottage, Gannock Green, Sandon, SG9 0RH.

The Warren,  
Green end,  
Sandon,  
Buntingford,  
Herts  
SG9 0RQ

North Herts District Council  
Licensing and enforcement  
P.O.Box 10613  
Nottingham  
NG6 6DW  
Dear Sirs

Re Licensing Application for Poplars Farm/Sandon Fields Event

I understand that an application has been made for a summer event at the above premises with thousands of visitors and overnight camping. I object to this event on the basis that the village cannot reasonably sustain such an event as the scale of the proposal is unsuitable for this small village. There will be significant disruption for the residents and an invasion of people with nothing to do whilst waiting for the event to start.

I also understand alcohol will be available until 1 am, music until 1.30 and food until 2.0. These all seem too late to be considered reasonable.

~~I think it is totally unreasonable for the population of the village to be disturbed so that somebody can make a quick profit.~~

~~If in the unlikely event the license were to be granted it must only be on a trial basis so that the disruption can be established so that no further events are even considered.~~

Yours sincerely,

NOT RELEVANT

P.A.Roberts

The Warren,  
Green end,  
Sandon,  
Buntingford,  
Herts  
SG9 0RQ

North Herts District Council  
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NOT RELEVANT

~~I think it is totally unreasonable for the population of the village to be disturbed so that somebody can make a quick profit. I have noise and grief all week, I do not want somebody to bring noise and disruption into my peace.~~

~~If in the unlikely event the license were to be granted it must only be on a trial basis so that the disruption can be established so that no further events are even considered.~~

NOT RELEVANT

Yours sincerely,

Jill Roberts

## Hannah Sweetman

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**From:** TONY BARKER  
**Sent:** 15 March 2018 18:58  
**To:** Hannah Sweetman  
**Cc:** /  
**Subject:** Premise Licence LC/6845 Poplars Farm Roe Green Sandon

The Licencing Act of 2003, states that members of the public may object to 4 main criteria that are not regarded as being frivolous. These are:-

Prevention of Crime and Disorder,  
Public Safety,  
Prevention of Public Nuisance, and  
Prevention of Children from Harm

We the undersigned believe that the points raised below fall within one or all of the criteria listed above.

Loud music from 12pm to 1.30am is absurd in the context of being neighbourly. 13.5 hours of such noise would be intolerable, especially for the elderly living nearby as I respectfully suggest that very few would normally be awake at such a very late hour as 1.30 in the morning. The sale of food for a further 30 minutes following the ceasing of the music would add to the noise levels over and above the thousand plus vehicles trying to leave the event in the early hours of the morning. This is totally un-neighbourly in our opinion.

An alcohol licence to serve into the the small hours of the morning would also run the possible risk of much drunken and anti-social behaviour. and increasing the risk of potential crime and disorder both within the event site and the local environs.

Roe Green, Sandon is a tiny hamlet and the potential influx of up to 2999 (according to the Event Management Plan but not stated on the application form) people over not one, but two successive days would be an unnecessary burden on the ability of the occupiers of neighbouring properties to enjoy the comfort of their own homes and garden curtilages. The sheer volume of the continuous music for so many hours on end, we would respectfully regard as being a very public nuisance to all nearby residents and, indeed, the rest of the village. As would the 1000 plus vehicles arriving and leaving the site via a single access opposite the childrens play area and very close to a 'T' junction.

~~Whilst appreciating that such concerts require large amounts of open ground to stage such events, the organiser could hardly have chosen a more peaceful location. By example, the Knebworth Concert (which is not an annual occurrence) is not located within a village and has the noise competition of the road traffic of the A1(M) to contend with. The Sandon Calling 3 day event only has an impact on the one property whose grounds the event is situated.~~

NOT RELEVANT

The location of the proposed event is in a totally unsustainable location, being remote from the train stations of either Baldock or Royston and there being no public transport services to the village at all. This means that it is highly likely that almost all potential attendees would need to come by car. Any attendees wishing to walk to the event would be risking their lives by walking along narrow country lanes with no footpaths. Any risk assessment would deem that to be totally contrary to public safety and, of course, highway safety. This, in our opinion is totally unacceptable.

Tony & Eve Barker The Dell Roe Green Sandon  
Mrs Elsie Graves Dell Cottage Roe Green Sandon

## Premises Licence application – Poplars Farm-Sandon Fields

### OBJECTION

I object to the granting of the above application on the following grounds; In general my objections are on a similar basis to those made regarding the previous application submitted in December 2017 and refused by NHDC licensing committee on all four of the licensing objectives.

My specific objections are as follows;

#### Public Nuisance.

Sandon is a small village so any event of this size and duration will result in inconvenience to residents in terms of traffic congestion on access roads, noise and antisocial behaviour.

#### Crime and Disorder.

The management plan includes procedures covering management and policing of the site. Based on the evidence of neighbours during last year's event I have reservations about the applicants' ability to effectively control the site and the surroundings.

#### Public Safety.

The accesses to the site through the village are unsuitable for the numbers envisaged and are likely to be inadequate to allow speedy access for emergency vehicles.

I have concerns in the event of fire;

- The arrival time from the nearest fire station is likely to be in the order of 15-20 minutes so the arrival time will be extended in the event of traffic congestion on the access roads and the access to the site.
- The "tented village" poses a significant risk of fire especially during the hours of darkness.
- Any emergency incident will be affected by the presence of attendees affected by alcohol and drugs, the lack of any street lighting and the difficulties of communication.

John Handley M.I.Fire.E.  
5, Sayfield Cottages,  
Sandon.



## Hannah Sweetman

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**From:** Licensing  
**Sent:** 15 March 2018 09:16  
**To:** Hannah Sweetman  
**Subject:** FW: Objection to licence for sandon fields festival

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**From:** Susan Nicholls  
**Sent:** 14 March 2018 21:22  
**To:** Licensing  
**Cc:** <sup>3</sup>  
**Subject:** Objection to licence for sandon fields festival

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing with regards to the licence application for the Sandon Fields Festival planned for this year. I have lived in the village for 11 years and am concerned about this event. I know someone who attended last year and the drug use was a big problem. This is not a large village but one with lots of open space most of the houses have no fenced in areas but are open to anyone just to entering from the surrounding fields. We feel that festival goers getting drunk and taking drugs wont think anything of wandering round the village not knowing where they are and not caring about our precious homes. I am sure there are many other places to have a festival that wont have an effect on the every day life of us villagers and hope you will take this into consideration.

Thank you  
Mrs Susan Nicholls.

7 Sayfield Cottages, sandon, SG9 0QL.